

Part I: Attachments
OMB Control Number: 1820-0664
Expiration Date: 10/31/2008

Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency:

District of Columbia Department of Human Services
Rehabilitation Services Administration

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency:

Not applicable

Address of Lead Agency:

810 First Street, NE, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency:

Elizabeth Parker, Administrator of the Rehabilitation Services Administration

Address for Certifying Representative:

810 First Street, NE, 10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone for Certifying Representative:

(202) 442-8663

E-mail for Certifying Representative:

Elizabeth.Parker@dc.gov

Name and Title of Program Director:

Sylvia E. Anderson

Address for Program Director:

810 First Street, NE, 10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone for Program Director:

(202) 442-8416

E-mail for Program Director:

Sylvia.Anderson@dc.gov

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):

Carmen Duran-Medina

Address for Program Contact:

810 First Street, NE, 10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone for Program Contact:
(202) 442-8463

E-mail for Program Contact:
Carmen.Duran@dc.gov

Name of Implementing Entity:
University Legal Services

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity:
Not applicable

Address of Implementing Entity:
220 I Street, Suite 130
Washington, D.C. 20002

Name and Title of Program Director:
Alicia C. Johns, Program Manager
Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia

Address for Program Director:
220 I Street, NE, Suite 130
Washington, DC 20002

Telephone for Program Director:
(202) 547-0198 Ex 134 Voice
(202) 547-2662 Fax
(202) 547-2657 TTY

E-mail for Program Director:
ajohns@uls-dc.org

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):
Not applicable

Address for Program Contact:
Not applicable

Telephone for Program Contact:
Not applicable

E-mail for Program Contact:
Not applicable

Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

2.1 Identification and Description of the Lead Agency - Identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act.

2.1A Identification and Description of Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is not Designated

Not applicable.

2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is Designated

In 1993, Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly designated the Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the state-level vocational rehabilitation program, as the lead agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia (ATPDC). The mission of the ATPDC is to increase the provision of, access to, and funding for assistive technology for residents of the District of Columbia with disabilities through a variety of District-wide, comprehensive activities and services. Since 1998, University Legal Services (ULS) has been directly responsible for the ATPDC.

The mission of the RSA is to assist individuals with disabilities in becoming self-sufficient in the home and the community through the provision of authorized vocational rehabilitation services, supported employment services and independent living services. In FY 2005, RSA administered an array of disability-related programs that impacted more than 240,000 people with disabilities in the District of Columbia. The RSA implements this mission through the following programs: the State Vocational Rehabilitation Program; the Supported Employment Program; the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program; the Social Security Disability Determination Program and, the Independent Living Services Program.

RSA works in partnership with people with disabilities and their families to assist them in making informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities. The RSA provides administrative support to the District of Columbia State Rehabilitation Council (State Council). The State Council, which is authorized by the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, as amended, Section 105 (b) (1) (2) (3) and Mayor's Orders 2004-188 and 2001-173, is composed of 21 members, including individuals with disabilities, parents, family members, and guardians of individuals with disabilities, and representatives from specific components of the disability community. The State Council, which meets at least four times a year, works with the RSA Administrator to develop goals and priorities for vocational rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in the District of Columbia. The State Council ensures that various constituencies of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR program) have a voice in how the program operates.

The RSA recognizes that assistive technology (AT) plays a vital role in helping customers reach their goals. The District of Columbia Assistive Technology Resource Center (DCATRC), which is located within the RSA premises, is an integral part of the AT Program. Its co-location with RSA gives vocational rehabilitation counselors and clients' direct access to and hands-on experience with a wide variety of AT devices. This access increases understanding of AT solutions and enables counselors and clients to make AT choices that will facilitate employment and independent living opportunities. Since its inception in 1999, the DCATRC has provided Washingtonians free access to AT information and referral services, an accessible web site, and publications in accessible formats on extensive topics related to disability rights, laws, policies, and funding opportunities for AT.

2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity – Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor.

University Legal Services will administer the assistive technology program for the District of Columbia under a sub-contractual agreement with the lead agency, the District of Columbia Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration (DCRSA). The program, formerly known as the District of Columbia Partnership for Assistive Technology (DCPAT), was established in 1993. University Legal Services (ULS) will be the implementing entity directly responsible for conducting and overseeing the activities of the Statewide AT Program, which is now called the Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia (ATPDC).

University Legal Services is a non-profit, 501(C)(3) corporation that is governed by a fourteen-member Board of Directors, including individuals with disabilities and their family members, that is responsible for all of ULS' policies, finances, and programs. ULS is the Protection and Advocacy agency for the District of Columbia (P&A) and as such, has the responsibility of administering eight federal grants in addition to the ATPDC.

As the P&A and the ATPDC, ULS' focus is to provide advocacy for individuals with disabilities across a broad spectrum which includes housing, protection and advocacy for AT, employment, education, and community living. Because ULS is not a state agency dedicated to specific programs that promote limited activities or serve limited populations, ATPDC will have the flexibility to assist individuals with AT needs across the lifespan and in any environment or for any purpose. The ATPDC has provided Washingtonians with disabilities and their family members free access to information and referral services, demonstration of a variety of AT devices, publications in accessible formats on extensive topics related to disability laws, a database of AT vendors and funding opportunities for assistive technology (AT).

During the next three years, under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended, ULS will continue to serve as the implementing organization responsible for the ATPDC,

and will continue to provide or establish programs to accomplish the goals of the AT Act. As the Protection and Advocacy agency for the District of Columbia, ULS provides administrative and legal advocacy in the protection of the legal and human rights of all individuals with disabilities regardless of their age or disability.

ULS is a consumer driven organization which allows it to continue to have the flexibility needed to work successfully with public and private sectors, easily traversing state agency and community organization boundaries. ULS has several advisory councils including the AT Advisory Council comprised primarily of consumers with disabilities or family members of individuals with disabilities. Other members are service providers and administrators of community and government agencies. The advisory council members make recommendations for the implementation of ULS and ATPDC project activities. ULS assists individuals with disabilities residing in the District of Columbia with obtaining the AT services they are entitled to by law.

The ATPDC intake process has identified many residents at the District's intermediate care facilities for mentally retarded persons (ICFs/MR) that have serious AT needs that have been neglected. ATPDC provides information, technical assistance and training related to the types of assistive technology devices that can assist persons with mental retardation to communicate their needs to the staff of the intermediate care facilities and function more independently.

ULS is working with parents to ensure that AT devices and services are provided to children who need them. P&A/AT and the ATPDC often collaborate to provide AT training for parent advocacy groups so parents will be empowered to advocate on behalf of their children with special needs.

The staff of the ATPDC provides demonstrations and technical assistance to parents about AT devices for a wide array of disabilities that can enhance their children's ability to learn in the classroom. Parents and their children can also borrow AT devices from the AT Equipment Loan Program to try out and determine if the AT solution will assist the child in their natural environments. The staff of the ATPDC provide demonstrations and recommendations about appropriate AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities that seek assistance from the ULS' Client Assistance Program (CAP). ULS has reviewed and provided comments on FCC regulations concerning telecommunications for the deaf and hard of hearing.

The RSA will enter into a contract with ULS annually to carry out the State-Level and State Leadership Activities of the AT Act. ATPDC is the only program in the District of Columbia whose mandate and mission has been to collaborate with persons with disabilities and others to increase the availability and utilization of AT devices and services for individuals of all ages and types of disabilities. AT services address technology needs in education, employment, community living and information technology/telecommunications.

The ATPDC employs three people: the Program Manager, the AT Project Coordinator and the AT Specialist. The staff are educated and motivated professionals with diverse experience in the field of disability and in-depth knowledge in the field of AT. The ATPDC staff has twenty years of combined experience in the field of disability and has successfully completed the Assistive Technology Applications Certificate Program offered by California State University, Northridge, and the RESNA Fundamentals course. The ATPDC will ensure that the skills of its staff remain current by providing them with training opportunities throughout the three years covered by this state plan.

The ATPDC is a citywide project the goal of which is to enhance independence, productivity, inclusion and quality of life for all individuals with disabilities in the District of Columbia. The ATPDC accomplishes this goal by identifying and breaking down barriers that keep people from getting appropriate AT devices and services, and by establishing initiatives that improve access to AT. The ATPDC has a twelve year history of building partnerships with community service providers, advocacy organizations, government agencies and vendors serving individuals with disabilities to implement these initiatives. This program has provided information and resources to the general public through public awareness, training and outreach activities about the benefits of AT devices and services especially for underserved populations in the District of Columbia.

The ATPDC will continue to increase access and acquisition of AT devices by providing public awareness, information and referral services, technical assistance, and customized training on AT issues. All program materials will be available in accessible formats and alternative languages upon request. District of Columbia residents will be able to examine a variety of AT equipment on display and learn about available resources at the DC Assistive Technology Resource Center (DCATRC). Individuals of any age, with any disability, can borrow many items at the DCATRC under a short-term AT Equipment Loan Program. Individuals can try out particular pieces of equipment at home, in their natural environments, to ascertain their utility for everyday use.

The ATPDC will partner with City First Bank of DC to administer the DC AT Financial Loan Program that offers loans to individuals with disabilities to purchase AT devices and services.

The ATPDC will contract with the Washington Area Wheelchair Society to provide recycled durable medical equipment and assistive technology devices to residents with disabilities in the District of Columbia.

In addition to the Advisory Council described in Attachment 3 of this plan, the ATPDC will ensure that its program is consumer responsive by seeking direct feedback from those who access the program either through on-site interviews, evaluations with participants or follow-up surveys.

2.3 Showing of Good Cause for Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity – If the Governor has chosen to change the Lead Agency or, if applicable, Implementing

Entity as allowed in section 4(c)(1)(C) of the AT Act, provide an explanation of good cause for this redesignation.

Not applicable.

Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

- 3.1 Membership of the Advisory Council - Identify the members of the Advisory Council and each member's designation as an individual with disabilities who uses AT, a family member or guardian of such individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

The Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia Advisory Council (ATPDC Advisory Council) will provide guidance for the planning and implementation of the activities of the Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia (Statewide AT Program) for the three years of this state plan.

The ATPDC Advisory Council presently has eleven members. Six members, 54.5% of the Advisory Council are individuals with disabilities who use AT or families of individuals with disabilities who use AT. The remaining five members, 45.5% of the council represent agencies, including the Center for Independent Living, State Workforce Investment Board, DC Department of Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Children's National Medical Center Adolescent Employment Readiness Center, and District of Columbia Public Schools Office of Special Education.

Members of the Advisory Council

Individuals with Disabilities: The individuals with disabilities include an Adjunct Professor at Howard University who teaches two courses in technology/multimedia technology and conducts training workshops on assistive technology and "Smart Classes"; an attorney who provides advocacy and legal counsel to individuals with and without disabilities through her private law practice; a member who works for the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; University Legal Services Supervising Housing Counselor; and a student with various disabling conditions.

Family Members: Parent with one child with developmental disabilities and another child with dyslexia.

State Agency Representatives: District of Columbia Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Youth & Transition Program Coordinator; District of Columbia Center for Independent Living, Center Independent Living Skills Specialist/Training Coordinator and the DC Coalition ADA Coordinator; the Children's National Medical Center Adolescent Employment Readiness Center (that provides transition services to adolescents with special health care needs that are transitioning from pediatric to adult health care systems); the Chair of the "Persons with Disabilities" subcommittee of the Work Force Investment Council's Universal Access Committee; and the Director of School Support for the District of Columbia Public Schools Office of Special Education.

The membership of the ATPDC Advisory Council includes representation from seven of the eight Wards in the District of Columbia. The Advisory Council reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the city. Members who use AT use a variety of devices, such as mobility devices, augmentative communication devices, devices and software for individuals who are blind and computer adaptations.

3.2 Structure and Operation of the Advisory Council – Describe the structure and operations of the Advisory Council.

During Year One of the state plan, fiscal year October 1st through September 30th, the ATPDC Advisory Council met three times at the ULS offices. The council members have recommended that the meetings be conducted at the beginning of the fiscal year, during the spring, to accommodate our consumers who have disabilities that are worsened by cold weather and during the summer. The summer meeting will allow council members to attend local and national meetings related to assistive technology demonstrations, practices and program activities implementation.

The co-chairpersons of the Advisory Council and the ATPDC Program Manager set the agenda for the Advisory Council meetings to ensure that council members are informed about state AT issues. The meetings held thus far included presentations on marketing strategies to inform consumers about the ATPDC's program initiatives, the AT data collection tool and developing an Equipment Recycling Program for the District of Columbia. Staff of the Statewide AT Program provided updates to the Advisory Council on the state -level and state leadership activities of the program and the AT data collection tool. The co-chairpersons facilitated discussion throughout the meetings to gain input and guidance in planning program activities. Minutes of the meeting were recorded.

The ATPDC Advisory Council elected two co-chairpersons during the first meeting of Fiscal Year One. The co-chairpersons are one individual with a disability and a representative from an agency or community organization to enable equal participation of the stakeholders and to ensure different viewpoints. Both individuals have equal responsibilities and will chair the meetings together. Either co-chairperson will serve in the absence of each other. The chairpersons for the ATPDC Advisory Council are a consumer and the representative of the Children's National Medical Center Adolescent Employment Readiness Center.

The ATPDC's staff provided the Advisory Council administrative support such as transcription of the meeting minutes and meeting logistics. The ATPDC Advisory Council members will determine the need for subcommittees on a case-by-case basis and will solicit volunteers for any proposed subcommittees. At the co-chairpersons' discretion, council decisions will be made either through consensus or by member vote. ATPDC Advisory Council members and staff will develop "General Guidelines" for conducting meetings. The Advisory Council's responsibility includes providing advice and making recommendations for the implementation of the Statewide AT Program.

Members of the Advisory Council may become part of the council in two ways: agency representatives are appointed by their respective agencies, while consumer representatives are volunteers solicited through networks of disability organizations and staff recommendations. All members are expected to serve a three-year term to coincide with the length of the ATPDC's state plan.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

The Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during Year Two and after Year Two will submit an amendment identifying the long-term goals and short-term goals for improving upon this baseline during Year Three and subsequent years of the State Plan. This baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate target individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate target individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate target individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:

- Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate target individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.8 Additional Measurable Goals -- If applicable, describe any measurable goals that the State has set in addition to the goals established in items 4.1 through 4.7 for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology.

Not Applicable.

Attachment 5: State-level Activities

5.1 State Financing Activities – Describe how the State will implement State financing activities as described in section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act.

Over the next three years, the Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia (ATPDC) will provide an AT Financial Loan Program (ATFLP) to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. The ATFLP began in 2001 using funds provided to ATPDC under Title 1 of the AT Act of 1998 and is called the Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia Financial Loan Program or (DC-ATFLP).

The ATPDC will not administer the DC-ATFLP directly. City First Bank of DC will administer the operations of the DC-ATFLP in partnership with the ATPDC.

City First Bank of DC, which is the first *community development bank* to open in the District of Columbia, has several branches in the District of Columbia. City First Bank of DC is a commercial bank that provides credit, financial and informational services for individuals and businesses to strengthen underserved communities.

Individuals with disabilities or their families may apply for a loan directly with City First Bank of DC or the ATPDC. City First Bank of DC will process the loan applications and market the loan program by distributing brochures to its customers in all of their branches. ATPDC will support these marketing efforts by promoting the DC-ATFLP on ATPDC's accessible web-site, through articles in local disability publications and resource information and flyers distributed to community and government agencies. DC -ATFLP program flyers will be provided to vendors that provide AT devices and services. Individuals can request information and the loan application via the ATPDC website, by telephone, fax, TTY and during training and public awareness activities. The DC-ATFLP marketing materials and loan applications will be available in alternative formats and other languages upon request.

Unlike other funding sources, DC-ATFLP will not have eligibility criteria in order to qualify for assistance, other than credit history. The loan application and approval process under DC-ATFLP will be efficient, so individuals will receive loans and purchase AT sooner than if they waited for funding from public or private sources. The loan process will usually be completed in two weeks. ATPDC staff may advise loan applicants to access device loan and device demonstration programs described in this attachment in order to try out devices before they take out loans to purchase them. The loan may be used to pay for the training, warranties and maintenance on equipment. The ATPDC will provide a loan guarantee that will enable the DC-ATFLP to support loans to individuals with lower credit scores than are required by typical financial institutions.

City First Bank of DC will review a loan application for the purchase of AT in the same manner it reviews other loan applications. If City First Bank of DC is unable to provide a loan because of an individual's credit history, the application is forwarded to the ATPDC Consumer Financial Loan Review Committee. The Committee will review the application to determine whether ATPDC funds can be used to guarantee the applicant's loan.

ATPDC deposited funds in 2001 to begin the AT Financial Loan Program account with City First Bank of DC in the amount of \$100,000. These funds are used to guarantee the ATFLP loans for a 5% reduced interest rate. ATPDC will ensure that the City First Bank of DC continues to enforce policies which prohibit them from denying a loan to an individual based on race, age, type of disability and the type of device needed. Over the next three years, this private-public partnership between City First Bank of DC and the ATPDC will enable people with disabilities, some on fixed incomes and with no historical banking relationship, to establish a credit history and acquire the AT devices and services they need for education, employment and maintenance of their independence in their communities.

Loans are limited to a minimum of \$500.00 and a maximum of \$5,000.00 because of limited funds. An applicant may be denied a loan based on credit history or a financial consideration other than income if it appears that it may limit the applicant's ability to repay the loan. However, because of the guarantee, the ATPDC will be able to support loans to individuals with credit scores below the standard for typical loans.

The ATPDC will collaborate with City First Bank of DC and the DC-ATFLP Consumer Review Committee to expand and improve the DC-ATFLP.

Since the inception of the DC AT Financial Loan Program, the program has made eleven loans totaling \$36,780 with four defaults totaling \$10,400. During the first year of this state plan, the DC-ATFLP awarded three loans. The DC-ATFLP currently has outstanding loans totaling \$9,101 and including the default loans, the program has approximately \$81,000 of the \$100,000 available to guarantee loans.

The ATPDC staff did not identify additional funds and will not offer larger loan amounts based on this financial analysis at this time. Consumers will still be able to purchase a variety of AT devices and services, but the loans will be limited to a maximum of \$5,000.

Plans for improvement over the Years Two and Three of this state plan will focus on the following:

- (1) Collaboration with the ULS housing counseling program to provide consumers credit counseling to enable them to qualify for the loan program and decrease the default rate. City First Bank of D.C. believes that utilization of the program would increase if potential applicants were provided with consumer credit counseling.

- (2) Working with City First Bank of DC to improve outreach to AT vendors, rehabilitation facilities, senior wellness centers, hospital discharge personnel and other organizations that can provide referrals to DC-ATFLP.
- (3) Expanding marketing to the general public.

5.2 Device Reutilization Program – Describe how the State will implement a device reutilization program as described in section 4(e)(2)(B) of the Act.

District of Columbia Equipment Recycling Program

Over the next three years, ATPDC will collaborate with the District of Columbia Center for Independent Living (DCCIL), The Washington Area Wheelchair Society, Independent Living for the Handicapped (ILH), state, federal and other local community organizations including churches, civic, volunteer, professional organizations, community volunteer groups, corporations and other relevant organizations to expand the statewide equipment recycling program. ATPDC will collaborate with these programs to increase acquisition of AT by providing new and used assistive technology devices and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) to District of Columbia residents who are in need. The program will not require an eligibility requirement, anyone needing equipment and unable to acquire it through Medicaid, Medicare, vocational rehabilitation, or special education can use the program to acquire the equipment they need.

The Independent Living for the Handicapped (ILH) provides accessible housing with support services to individuals with disabilities and their families. ILH currently manages a two-story apartment building with twenty units designed for people with disabilities. The building is fully accessible and the D.C. Equipment Recycling Program will lease space from ILH to store and distribute equipment to residents of the District of Columbia.

The DCCIL operates a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) recycling program that was initially funded by seed money from the Title I Funds of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. Durable medical equipment includes wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, lifts, home care beds, commodes and other items. This new and used equipment is available at no cost for District of Columbia residents with disabilities or those who have a dependent with a disability, regardless of their type of disability, age, income level or location of residence within the city or the type of assistive technology. The DCCIL will move their current inventory of equipment to the ILH location to reduce their burden for paying for storage space, but continue to be a distribution and donation location for the recycling program.

The Washington Area Wheelchair Society provides new and used DME, computers and other equipment that may benefit individuals with disabilities. The Society is a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) community foundation that operates six Programs of Assistance in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. The Society is a clearinghouse for information about equipment, funding sources, and other local loan closets. The Wheelchair Society will coordinate all logistics for developing the

equipment recycling program in the District of Columbia. Specifically they will purchase all equipment needed to store, clean and inventory the DME/AT. The Wheelchair Society will provide repair and maintenance for equipment. This organization will help the ATPDC identify and train volunteers to solicit, collect and inventory DME and assistive technology donations. It will also train volunteers on how to repair the equipment.

The District of Columbia Equipment Recycling program will operate in the following manner. Individuals or agencies will donate DME and various assistive technology devices. The types of equipment available are dependent on what is donated. Initially ATPDC will recycle some of the AT devices from the AT Resource Center and the AT Equipment Loan Program to the DC Equipment Recycling Program. Consumers with disabilities or their family members must contact the program by telephone to request the equipment they need. Staff or volunteers will check the program's equipment inventory list to determine if the equipment is available and makes arrangements to have the equipment picked up. If the equipment is not available, the recycling program staff will contact other equipment give-away programs such as the Cerebral Palsy Association, Children's National Medical Center, Spinal Cord Injury Network, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Disabled Veterans of America to try to acquire the equipment that the consumer needs. These equipment give-away programs are located throughout the Washington metropolitan area. They collaborate to meet the needs of all individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities can use the AT devices and DME equipment as long as they have a need for it.

Over the next three years, ATPDC in collaboration with these organizations, will establish and expand the D.C. Equipment Recycling Program. Plans for the development and expansion of the program include:

During Year One of this state plan:

- (1) Consumers acquired small DME items such as canes, manual wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches from the DC Assistive Technology Resource Center and ULS offices where the ATPDC is located.
- (2) ATPDC collaborated with the DCCIL and the Washington Area Society to coordinate the acquisition of a variety of DME equipment to residents residing in the District of Columbia.
- (3) ATPDC distributed used computers to residents of the ILH apartment complex.
- (4) ATPDC also recycled AT devices from the Equipment Loan Program to consumers who needed specific AT devices.
- (5) Before the end of Year One of the state plan:
 - a. ATPDC will formalize an agreement with the Washington Area Wheelchair Society, Independent Living for the Handicapped and other organizations to establish the D.C. Equipment Recycling Program.
 - b. ATPDC will provide funding to Washington Area Wheelchair Society to assist with the expenditures related to operating an equipment recycling program including, but not limited to staffing costs; operational cost; equipment storage, repair and maintenance, and transportation for pick up of

donations.

During Year Two of the state plan:

- (1) ATPDC will collaborate with all of its partners to develop policies and procedures for the Equipment Recycling Program.
- (2) ATPDC will solicit donations from the community to acquire a variety of AT devices for different disabilities for the recycling program.
- (3) Hire staff for the Equipment Recycling Program including a director, a consultant to develop an accessible website for the recycling program and a volunteer coordinator.
- (4) Consumers, their family members and other organizations will be able to access information about where and how to obtain equipment, how to make donations and a real time inventory of available equipment on the website. Other loan programs will be linked to this website which will expand the number and variety of items available to consumers.
- (5) ATPDC and partners will solicit new and refurbished computers that consumers can acquire through the recycling program.

During Year Three of the state plan:

- (1) ATPDC and partners will solicit volunteers to assist in managing the Equipment Recycling Program.
- (2) Identify additional funding resources to sustain the recycling program.

On an ongoing basis, ATPDC, in collaboration with the all of its partners will:

- a. Solicit AT and DME donations, especially from vendors, to provide a wider range of equipment that will meet the needs of a variety of disabilities.
- b. Solicit equipment and monetary donations for the recycling program by publicizing the recycling program on free radio and cable community programs and on our website.
- c. Advertise the recycling program in local community newspapers, and distribute flyers in non traditional community organizations such as churches, nursing homes, assistive living centers, wellness centers, and hospitals.

The District of Columbia Equipment Recycling Program supports the acquisition of AT by providing consumers the option to acquire AT devices and DME at no cost. Consumers do not need to meet eligibility criteria to obtain devices from the recycling program but will be provided technical assistance about acquiring devices from VR or Special Education or other funding sources if they are eligible for those services. Individuals will be able to acquire items in a more timely manner than if they waited for funding from public or private sources. The program will break down financial barriers for those families who can not afford to purchase or take out a loan to acquire needed AT devices. Conversely, the donations, which are tax deductible, will help eliminate problems associated with equipment disposition and abandonment.

5.3 Device Loan Program – Describe how the State will implement a device loan program as described in section 4(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

Over the next three years, the ATPDC will operate a short-term AT equipment loan program known as the Assistive Technology Equipment Lending Program (ATELP). This program, which the ATPDC established in 2002, will be operated through the DC Assistive Technology Resource Center. ATPDC will market the short-term equipment program through flyers distributed to disability-related agencies and organizations, on the ATPDC web site and through ATPDC public awareness activities and subsequent “word of mouth” by users of the program.

The ATELP will allow individuals with disabilities and professionals to try out AT devices before they buy them and allow clinicians to use a device to assess clients. It will also meet interim needs of individuals whose own devices are being repaired by providing a loaner device. The ATELP is the only device lending program in the District of Columbia that allows all individuals with disabilities, regardless of their age, to borrow AT devices for a specific time period without any cost.

The ATELP will use an inventory of over 300 AT devices, including devices for persons who cannot speak, persons with hearing impairments and persons who cannot use the computer because of a physical or visual disability. The ATELP will remain accessible to all individuals, all agencies and all service providers in the District of Columbia. In addition to a phone, fax and TTY number, the ATELP will offer a website that users can visit to learn about the program, view the inventory list and request a device through a printable online application. The inventory list and application will also be available in Braille and non-English languages upon request.

The ATELP will continue to be staffed by an AT Specialist who will provide information and recommendations on the most appropriate devices and products in the program inventory. Borrowers will be able to call and receive information about available devices and then visit the DCATRC to pick up the device(s) they wish to use. Staff will be available to deliver and pick-up devices for consumers who may be unable to access the resource center. Shipment and return of devices within the city will also be available for a nominal charge. Borrowers will be required to complete an application which outlines the responsibility of the ATELP and the borrower. Loans will generally be limited to a maximum of five devices at a time, and the term of the loan will be for up to a four week period, with extensions available upon request.

During the next three years the ATELP will implement the following strategies on an ongoing basis to broaden the loan program’s usefulness to individuals with disabilities:

During Year One of the state plan:

- (1) The AT Specialist purchased AT devices such as FM listening systems, cell phone amplifiers, portable CCTV and portable word processors and organizers that are available for individuals with disabilities, their family members and services to borrow for a short term loan.
- (2) ATPDC staff contacted several AT device vendors to solicit AT devices for the ATELP, but most vendors preferred to provide demonstrations of their AT products rather than to make them available for short term loans.
- (3) ATPDC staff distributed ATELP flyers and posted information on the program's website to increase awareness of the equipment lending program, thus increasing public access. Staff members distributed program flyers about the ATELP at every presentation, training session or public awareness event.
- (4) Federal and local government agencies representatives borrowed AT devices from this program to provide training and demonstrations to their employers and employees about the benefit of AT devices in the work environment.

During Year Two of the state plan:

- (1) The AT Equipment Lending Program will be expanded so that individuals can borrow and return AT devices to other locations such as ULS' offices and the Equipment Recycling Program.
- (2) ATPDC will increase its equipment inventory by purchasing AT devices that specifically address the needs of individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities such as learning disabilities and autism.
- (3) ATPDC will also consult with a marketing expert to develop more effective marketing strategies to inform the public about the ATELP and other ATPDC's programs. All marketing materials will be available in alternative format and languages other than English.

During Year Three of the state plan:

- (1) Advertise the AT Equipment Loan Program in local community newspapers targeting their technology, or health sections and list the program on various free classified web pages such as craigslist.com.
- (2) Distribute program flyers, loan request forms and a listing of the ATELP equipment inventory to infant and toddler programs, One Stop Centers, senior and therapeutic recreational centers and other assistive technology centers that do not provide an AT equipment lending program. This information will also be available on the ATPDC's website www.atpdc.org

When individuals with disabilities, their families and professionals borrow AT devices and try them out in their natural environments, they will learn more about what devices meet their needs or the needs of those they are serving. The experience of borrowing devices from the AT Equipment Lending Program and trying them out lets consumers

and service providers make informed choices about which device to purchase or whether to purchase a device at all if their needs are not met.

5.4 Device Demonstration Program – Describe how the State will implement a device demonstration program as described in section 4(e)(2)(D) of the Act.

Over the next three years, the ATPDC will operate an AT demonstration center known as the District of Columbia Assistive Technology Resource Center (DCATRC). The DCATRC, which was established in 1999, is fully accessible and is located at the District of Columbia Rehabilitation Services Administration's (DCRSA) offices. The DCATRC is a facility where consumers, family members, employers, educators, service providers and any District of Columbia resident may explore, experience and compare the usefulness of various types of AT equipment, learn about possible product vendors and other related services, and discuss their applications for devices or services.

The DCATRC contains over 350 items of assistive technology ranging from specially designed toys for infants and toddlers, electronic dictionaries, software for learning disabilities, screen reading software for persons with visual disabilities and computer hardware for mobility impairments. The DCATRC will continue to be staffed by an Assistive Technology Specialist (ATS) who possesses significant expertise in assisting individuals in making informed choices regarding assistive technology devices and services. The AT Specialist will be responsible for training individuals and groups in the use of such technologies and in the process of integrating such technologies into the formal habilitation, education and/or rehabilitation process.

The DCATRC will remain completely accessible to all individuals with disabilities, all agencies and all professionals and service providers in the District of Columbia. In addition to a phone, fax and TTY number, we will offer a website that users can visit to learn about the program, view a list of equipment in the center and request an appointment for a personally guided tour. Persons with disabilities or family members self refer or are referred to the center from public and private agencies and organizations, school systems and medical facilities, as well as the DC Rehabilitation Services Administration (DCRSA). Patrons will also learn of the center through ATPDC outreach activities and subsequent "word of mouth." Staff will also be available to provide off-site demonstrations as needed.

During Year One of the state plan:

- (1) The AT specialist purchased updated word processors and organizers, a portable CCTV and FM Listening systems to address the needs of a wider range of individuals, including persons with cognitive, developmental and mental disabilities.
- (2) The ATPDC staff provided demonstrations of a variety of AT devices to VR clients, K-12 personnel and students, OT and PT students, clinicians and parent advocacy groups.

- (3) The ATPDC staff marketed the device demonstration program on its website, and through distribution of flyers to Student Disability Services, D.C. Center for Independent Living, VR counselors, senior programs and local and federal government agencies and their staff.

During Years Two and Three of this state plan:

- (1) The ATPDC program will consult with a marketing specialist to develop a comprehensive marketing plan to increase awareness and utilization of the DCATRC. This marketing plan will include promoting and advertising the DCATRC as an assistive technology training site, vendors' demonstration location and a place where skilled AT evaluators including occupational, physical and speech therapists can borrow equipment for evaluations of their clients in their natural environment or at the DCATRC. This information will also be available on the program website including pictures of the demonstration center's equipment.
- (2) In response to demands for the ATPDC staff to provide demonstrations to federal and local government agencies and postsecondary programs training professionals to work with people with disabilities, the ATPDC staff will create an "AT Demo Kit List". These "AT Demo Kit List" will contain a listing of a variety of AT devices related to a specific disability or a particular population that can be borrowed from the DCATRC. Consumers, representatives from local and government agencies and other professionals will be able to borrow the equipment listed on the AT Demo Kit List for use in demonstrating a variety of assistive technology devices to the general public for specific events, general information or training sessions.
- (3) ATPDC staff will also provide AT demonstrations at the Equipment Recycling Program.
- (4) ATPDC will collaborate with vendors and specialized AT experts to provide demonstrations of a variety of AT devices that address the needs of specific disabilities and/or groups within the community. Specific demonstrations could include AT devices for individuals with learning disabilities or autism and demonstration of safety products for seniors. All demonstrations will provide a list of the devices, their application, and costs and catalogs or websites for purchasing information.

The DC Assistive Technology Resource Center will serve as a "one stop" resource center which provides consumers and service providers the experience of receiving all the information they require about AT devices and services in one visit. This experience of direct access to a variety of AT devices at the DCATRC will provide consumers and service providers with the information and resources they need to determine the best AT solutions to achieve success in educational, employment and community living endeavors.

Attachment 6: Comparable Support

6.1 Source and Amount of Support – Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the amount of the support, and the project year for which this support is being provided.

Not applicable.

6.2 Comparability -- Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

Not applicable.

6.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities and collaborate with the appropriate entity, if the comparable funds are provided to, or the activities are conducted by, an entity other than the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity.

Not applicable.

Attachment 7: State Flexibility

7.1 Activity – Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out.

Not applicable.

7.2 Maintenance of Statewideness and Comprehensiveness – Demonstrate that the Statewide AT Program will continue to be comprehensive without conducting this activity.

Not applicable.

7.3 Achievement of Measurable Goals - Demonstrate that the State can reach its measurable education goals, employment goals, telecommunications and information technology goals, and community living goals without conducting such activities.

Not applicable.

7.4 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will coordinate activities and collaborate with entities in the State that do conduct this activity, if the State chooses not to conduct this activity because another entity already conducts it.

Not applicable.

Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

- 8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities – Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education and businesses as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(i) of the AT Act.

Training

Over the next three years, the Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia will engage in a number of training activities. ATPDC staff will develop a number of comprehensive, customized and interactive training activities to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, family members, teachers, school administrators, employers, government agencies and professional service providers in the District of Columbia. ATPDC training modules will involve integrating practical experience and “hands-on applications” with a discussion of theory and policy as well as ongoing follow-up and support to reinforce and refresh the content.

ATPDC staff and expert consultants will advertise specific subject training workshops in local disability related newsletters, and employee orientation/training schedules of schools and teachers, therapists, and medical personnel. All training information will be available on the ATPDC and other disability related organizations’ website, mass emails, and flyer distribution during all public awareness events.

For the most part, trainings will be held at the DCATRC, but off-site events may be scheduled upon request. Trainings will be provided by all ATPDC staff members. When possible, experts in areas such as education, recreation, vocational rehabilitation, and community living will provide training sessions on AT issues. Keynote speakers will provide updates on important AT policies and legislation. These trainings will include but are limited to:

Training for consumers and advocates. Staff of ATPDC will train individuals with disabilities, their family members and caregivers to increase their awareness of the ever-changing array of assistive technology devices. Staff will seek out community organizations that would benefit from training including parent groups of school-aged children, neighborhood associations and disability advocacy groups. The training curriculum will enhance awareness about the need for access to assistive technology devices and services and will offer specific strategies on how to acquire funding for services and equipment.

Training for employment professionals will be developed for employment professionals such as vocational rehabilitation counselors (public and private), DC Department of Employment Services staff (One-Stop Centers) and government and human resources personnel. This training module will increase these professionals' general knowledge of the availability of various assistive technologies and the identification of appropriate AT devices for worksite accommodations for a variety of disabilities.

Training for education professionals. Training sessions for special and general education teachers, speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists, early intervention specialists and other education professionals will include a basic overview of the benefits of AT devices for students; the AT evaluation and selection process, and how to integrate the AT devices into the educational settings. These trainings will include information on how to recommend assistive technology devices and services in the required educational plans for all students. The training sessions will include information for a broad array of disabilities and devices and training on the use of specific devices upon request.

The ATPDC staff will customize trainings for specific audiences, organizations, government agencies or other interested groups such as independent living professionals and post-secondary administrative staff that request training on specific topics. Upon the completion of each training, participants will receive training materials including a hard copy of the Power Point presentation and other handouts as warranted. Participants will also have access to technical assistance by phone, the website or one-on-one tutorials.

Participants will be asked to complete pre and post training evaluations to determine if the materials provided are appropriate to the trainees' needs. The evaluation will provide ATPDC staff with information to improve training materials and course content.

Technical Assistance

Over the next three years, ATPDC staff members will provide technical assistance (TA) that generally involves advice and consultation on assistive technology available in the marketplace, proper product application, and funding, purchase and vendor information. ATPDC program staff will provide TA to statewide, local and federal government agencies, service providers and all District of Columbia residents with and without disabilities.

In the past, ATPDC has provided technical assistance such as the following:

- ATPDC assisted the State Education Agency in developing a mobile "literacy van" which now provides tutorial services to DC communities. This assistance involved a needs assessment, advice on accessible computer systems, consultation on the procurement of new software and troubleshooting information on the installation of certain software and devices.
- ATPDC Assistive Technology Specialist identified AT devices for the Department of Employment Services' One-Stop Centers to purchase to make them more accessible.

The ATPDC anticipates providing technical assistance in a similar manner over the next three years.

During Year One of the state plan, ATPDC did not undertake this training and technical assistance project to establish small assistive technology resource centers with one elementary school and one high school. During years Two and Three of the state plan, ATPDC staff and expert consultants will identify educational, employment, and community living programs that can benefit from an on-site assistive technology resource center. The proposed project is designed to enhance the consideration and use of assistive technology by students, teachers, family members, administrators, case managers, and employment specialists in order to improve academic and independence outcomes. Increased information sources will empower those involved to make informed choices regarding assistive technology devices and services.

This initiative is in the planning stages, but each resource center will contain such things as specific product information, catalogs, assistive technology related website information, citywide resource information, AT assessment protocols and information about the services provided by the ATPDC program. Each community-based assistive technology resource center will designate staff that will be responsible for maintaining the resource center with technical assistance from ATPDC program staff. The designated staff can borrow equipment from the Equipment Lending Program to determine if the AT device will meet their needs or the needs of those persons they are serving. In Year Three, the effectiveness of this project will be determined and a decision on expansion to more schools will be made.

Transition

The ATPDC will continue to focus on training and technical assistance related to students with disabilities who are leaving high school for employment, post-secondary education and independent living in their communities.

During Year One of this state plan, ATPDC participated in the First Annual District of Columbia Citywide Transition Resource Fair that was sponsored by the state vocational rehabilitation office, District of Columbia State Transition Team and District of Columbia Public Schools, Office of Special Education. The fair provided teachers, parents and students access to information about the resources that are available to students that are transitioning from school to other post secondary opportunities. ATPDC staff also provided information about the ATPDC program's District of Columbia Public Schools Transition Resource and Service Providers Directory. The AT Program also disseminated information to the general public regarding a focus group for parents who have youth with disabilities enrolled in high school. The focus group participants provided input in the development of a "Transition Guide for Parents" that will assist parents with the transition process.

During years Two and Three of this state plan, the ATPDC will work in collaboration with government and local organizations in developing focused training sessions and

providing technical assistance to students with disabilities as they transition from high school to post-secondary education, employment or community-based independent living programs. Specialized training will also be developed to help parents with children with disabilities to understand the role of AT in the transition process. Potential workshop topics will include assistive technology and information technology in the post-secondary setting, and how to utilize university disability support services and workplace accommodations in the public and private sectors.

ATPDC will also develop training workshops specifically for case managers, consumers with disabilities, their family members and other service providers to increase their knowledge and skills to successfully include appropriate AT in all transition planning for community based programs. Potential subjects for training topics will include how to select the appropriate AT device, local AT vendors that sell and repair devices and technical assistance how to use the AT device.

The ATPDC training program will include individual consumers, consumer organizations, service providers, housing and assisted living providers, professionals in training or university settings and employers. The tailored training and technical assistance they receive will help them understand how appropriate AT equipment and services can enable individuals with disabilities to live more independently in their communities, achieve academic goals and maintain employment.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities – Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

Over the next three years, ATPDC will use a multifaceted approach that will include mailings, website, publications, public service announcements, local cable TV advertising, and participation with other agencies, conferences, exhibits, presentations, and trainings to increase awareness of the benefits of AT devices and services, the types of available AT devices and services, funding for AT devices and services, and policies related to AT. ATPDC will submit articles related to AT to other community disability-related organizations, publications and newsletters.

ATPDC staff members will be visible throughout the city at exhibits and conferences and will also conduct presentations. All of our public awareness activities will be accessible to all individuals with and without disabilities that reside in the District of Columbia.

ATPDC will provide the following public awareness activities:

Information and Referral. ATPDC staff will provide information on the availability, benefits, appropriateness and cost of AT devices and services, upon request. In addition, ATPDC staff will mail callers AT resource and device information in order for them to make a more informed decision. A consumer satisfaction survey will be mailed or

emailed to callers approximately six months following their call to determine if they are satisfied with the information provided by ATPDC or if they need additional information.

Website. ATPDC's website, <http://www.atpdc.org> will feature in-depth information on the State Level activities of the ATPDC program as well as information on other programs ATPDC is involved in outside of the AT Act. The ATPDC's website will provide information on Assistive Legislation and Public Policy, ATPDC publications, resources and links to a variety of links related to disability resources, local and national training, and professional development activities related to assistive technology. The website will also provide an opportunity for individuals to directly contact ATPDC for purposes of feedback, information and referral, and acquire on-line information such as an application for the financial loan program and the equipment loan program.

Publications. ATPDC will disseminate training materials and publications that cover the benefits of assistive technology and the ways individuals with disabilities may obtain appropriate equipment and services for all types of audiences, across a broad array of AT related issues. All publications will be free of charge on the website and will be available in any requested alternative format. The ATPDC will also disseminate the program brochures where individuals with disabilities access services in the community such as grocery stores, churches, banks and doctors' offices. The ATPDC will make the information available in school libraries, parent resource centers and PTA's meetings.

Newsletter. The ATPDC newsletter will be disseminated on a semi-annual basis on the website. The newsletter will specifically feature articles about users of assistive technology, AT devices for education, employment and community living and information technology and telecommunications. The newsletter will also include articles on assistive technology funding resources, upcoming assistive technology program events and training sessions, classified listing of assistive technology equipment, and equipment availability.

Video. ATPDC will continue to distribute the program's "Creative Solutions for Living" video that features minorities in an urban environment using assistive technology in a variety of settings, such as at home, work, school and recreation. This video is part of an expanded and intensified outreach campaign aimed at informing individuals with disabilities from minority populations about the benefits of assistive technology devices and services. The video will encourage individuals with disabilities from minority populations to advocate for appropriate AT devices and services and to become active participants in the AT service delivery system.

8.2 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) of the AT Act.

The District of Columbia will continue coordination and collaboration with public and private entities to improve access to AT and other accessible technologies. The structure of the ATPDC Assistive Technology Council provides a natural mechanism for coordination and collaboration with those agencies responsible for policies, procedures, funding and provision of AT devices and services. In the past, coordination and collaboration involved the proposal of new or modified AT policies, input on proposed AT policies, and analysis of the impact of current AT policies. ATPDC achieved this by participating on task forces and advisory councils sponsored by state agencies, membership on consumer groups, advocacy groups and disability networks throughout the state and through independent efforts.

Currently, ATPDC is collaborating and coordinating with:

- The One Stop Career Centers to identify and procure accessible AT devices so that consumers with disabilities can produce resumes and make use of the web for employment searches.
- The Statewide Independent Living Council on the provision of AT for clients served by the DC Center for Independent Living.
- District of Columbia Public School Office of Special Education and the District of Columbia State Transition to develop resources for youth with disabilities and their parents to help them understand the benefits of assistive technology devices and services in the transition process from high school to other post secondary opportunities.
- Disability Rights Host Committee to sponsor the DC Disability Community Mayor Forum and other community events related to addressing the disability issues for individuals with disabilities residing in the District of Columbia. ATPDC will help monitor the election polling sites for accessibility.
- D.C. Office on Aging as part of their community events schedule through demonstrations of the benefits of AT devices for senior citizens.

ATPDC anticipates coordinating and collaborating on policies in a similar manner over the next three years.

Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

9.1 Nature and Extent of Resources – Describe the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators to assist in accomplishing identified goals.

As described in Attachment 5, ATPDC will work with the City First Bank of DC to implement the AT Financial Loan Program. City First Bank of DC will provide administrative support to process AT loan applications as an in-kind contribution. The ATPDC will partner with the Independent Living for the Handicapped (ILH), DC Center for Independent Living(DCCIL) and the Washington Area Wheelchair Society and other organizations to expand the District of Columbia Equipment Recycling Program. The Independent Living for the Handicapped will provide the space for the recycling program and the DCCIL will be a distribution site for durable medical equipment (DME). The Washington Area Wheelchair Society will coordinate all logistics for developing the equipment recycling program in the District of Columbia including refurbishing and maintaining donated equipment, and hiring and training staff and volunteers.

9.2 Mechanisms to Ensure Coordination - Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the State.

The Implementing Entity, University Legal Services will enter into a contract with the District of Columbia's Lead Agency (the District of Columbia Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration or DCRSA). This contract will set forth activities that ATPDC must conduct on behalf of DCRSA and the system oversight to be provided by the U.S. Department of Education. A DCRSA Project Officer will oversee administration of the contract, and the Program Manager of ATPDC will meet quarterly with this Project Officer to discuss activities and the implementation of this state plan.

The Project Officer or designee will attend all Advisory Council meetings for ATPDC, while the ATPDC Program Manager will serve on the advisory committee to DCRSA. ATPDC will submit monthly expenditures reports to the DCRSA Administrator for review and appropriate assistance to ATPDC. ATPDC will also provide quarterly and annual reports to DCRSA on activities completed, activities planned, and any data related those activities.

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council - Describe the nature and extent of the involvement of the State Advisory Council in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals required in section 4(d)(3).

The Advisory Council met twice before the submittal of this plan in order to set general goals and objectives and to provide advice on how activities are to be carried out.

The plan for disseminating public awareness brochures (Attachment 8) where individuals with disabilities access services in the community is directly based on the suggestions of the Council and other stakeholders involved in planning. The AT Advisory Council was instrumental in providing suggestions for the training activities for students transitioning from secondary school to postsecondary educational, employment or independent living programs and for integrating AT training into the orientation and training schedules of schools, teachers, therapists, and medical personnel.

The Council will meet three times per year to evaluate progress toward established goals and to offer suggestions for improvement and change. Measurable goals contained in this plan will be reviewed and evaluated when the council meets and adjustments will be made in response to and under the guidance of the Advisory Council.

Attachment 10: State Support

10.1 State Support for State-level Activities – If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

The District of Columbia Rehabilitation Services Administration (DCRSA) will continue to provide the space for the District of Columbia Assistive Technology Center (DCATRC) within the RSA premises at 810 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C as an in-kind contribution. The space includes the cost of rent and utilities, security, maintenance, concierge, janitorial and trash pick-up services. The building is handicapped accessible and convenient to Metrorail and Metro bus.

10.2 State Support for State Leadership Activities - If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3), if applicable.

Not applicable.